

TOP SECRET

17 October 1950

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MEMORANDUM FOR

SUBJECT: Notes on meeting of National Psychological Strategy Board, 16 October 1950.

1. The minutes of yesterday's meeting will be forthcoming in due course but as the minutes are usually incomplete on the points of greatest importance and interest to OPC, I am setting forth here for your information and appropriate action a number of the high points.

2. The minutes of the special meeting of 12 October have been circulated to OPC only and Mr. Stone is awaiting our proposed revision. Let's get on with this.

3. The first item on the agenda was a review of the proposed MDAP information setup and I was the only member of the board caught short without having seen the basic paper. Please let me know whether we received this paper which I had to study hurriedly during the meeting; and if not I think you should speak to Mr. Stone about this. It was generally agreed at yesterday's meeting that it was desirable to give greater publicity abroad to the constructive purposes of MDAP, but that there should be no new and independent information mechanism created to accomplish this. Rather, such persons as might be sent to the European countries concerned would be attached to the information offices of the embassies and would function as members of the regular teams, but with a brief to concentrate on MDAP publicity.

4. Mr. Barrett expounded his philosophy of the significance of the National Psychological Strategy Board, commenting that our reclamation had given him the impression that we were regarding the board as an authoritative body competent to issue instructions and orders. Mr. Barrett emphasized that the board is a coordinating mechanism and does not have the authority or competence to command the component governmental elements represented on the board. The board will seek to effect coordination through unanimous agreement and the thrashing out of points of disagreement, and there will be no majority rule system applied. All agreed this interpretation.

5. The joint survey mission which went to Korea three or four weeks ago is now back in Washington and its members--particularly the State Department member, should be debriefed by our people, including someone from Division, at an early date. Will you

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please make arrangements for this.

6. The third item on the agenda was a report on the [] project and the [] project. The [] project, of which I had heard a small smattering before, seems to me to hold a great deal of interest for OPC. It is a full blown high level large scale operation for the examination of ways and means of effecting the penetration of information behind the Iron Curtain. There will be a raft of non-governmental experts participating and top secret clearance is being urgently obtained for all of these experts. There will be a series of briefings of the experts on security and other lines. []

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Mr. Webb and Mr. Barrett will deliver some of the general briefings and we should have a representative present at the important briefings. There will be an inevitable byproduct of ideas and suggestions running into the covert field and we should be in a position to not only obtain the benefit of this but also to stir and guide the course of the exploration and inquiry. We have been invited by Mr. Barrett to participate in this guidance and following-up function to the fullest extent that we may deem desirable. If we do not wish to expose our own personnel at any point of our association with this group of experts, we can use other people. Admiral Stevens specifically volunteered to front for us and Mr. Barrett did likewise. We may be called upon to consider whether we wish to participate in the briefing of the group and we should be prepared with our views. The individual in the State Department who has the main responsibility for riding herd on this operation is Davidson Taylor, who is fully security cleared and was formerly a Vice President of CBS. Mr. Barrett offered to have him come over to brief me in greater detail and I said that we would want to have him talk to various members of our staff. Will you please arrange this through Mr. Stone, after discussing with the interested area chiefs whether they would like to have members of their staff present at the briefing.

7. Mr. Mullin of ECA offered the funds and facilities of his organization in a propaganda and PW survey which would cover the kind of activities that the Japanese engaged in and the propaganda lines currently being exploited by Ho Chi Min and the Chinese communists. We were asked whether we would be interested in having this done as were the Departments of State and Defense representatives. Mr. Barrett said that we should have our answers ready by next week. It seems to me that this may be of use and interest to us but I should like for you and your staff to consider it. It strikes me that the project to have documents translated from the old Japanese school of geopolitics (which has been under discussion in OPC) might be undertaken and financed by ECA. Incidentally, who has custody

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✓ of the old Japanese documents and where are they now?

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8. General Magruder reminded me that OPC and CIA generally should be ready with candidates of real stature for participation as members of the ad hoc committee of experts to study the defector question. This was the outcome of the NSC meeting on NSC 86. OPC should no doubt be represented and in addition there should be a CIA representative from the intelligence side of the house. This might be Lyman Kirkpatrick or it might be someone from [redacted] shop. Please remind me to discuss this matter with both of them. I gathered from what General Magruder said to me that provision may be made for having two representatives from each participating agency, included within the ad hoc committee.

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